

Report of the Board of Selectmen

Alton continued its rich tradition of numerous volunteers stepping forward to lift our community to well above average. We extend our gratitude to all of you.

On a snowy day in March 2005, Alton voters choose to step away from the traditional Town Meeting and approved a change to the "Official Ballot" form of Town Government. One of the first noticeable changes was the 2006 budgeting process and Capital Improvements Planning having to start in August to support the new schedule.

A Town wide property revaluation was completed by our in-house staff without having to pay for expensive outside assistance. The results of the revaluation are now available on-line. The Town's net valuation increased by about 60% and there was a corresponding reduction in the tax rate. Also, Alton is no longer a "Donor Town".

The Selectmen agreed to a new approach to highway reconstruction. With over 84 miles of Town roads, and that number growing, we need to reconstruct more than one mile a year. In an effort to significantly lower reconstruction cost per mile, we agreed to use our own Highway Department equipment and staff for much of the work and only contract out for specialties such as paving. We also approved a revised road construction standard for new sub-divisions and new driveway standards for long driveways.

With assistance from the Town administrator, a review and revision of the Town's personnel policy was completed in the course of several work sessions. The Town web site (alton.nh.gov) continues to see improvements such as a meetings & events calendar and a cover page photo contest.

We gave our approval to the beach committee's proposed Town beach reconstruction plan. Start of construction was not possible this fall due to the high lake levels. The B&M Railroad Park design also firmed up; over \$xx,xxx was contributed by private donors; the old caboose was fixed-up and moved onto a permanent display location.

Over the course of the year, we approved several "barn preservation easements" where a landowner gets a reduction in taxes on a qualifying historic structure in return for a promise to preserve such as well, as allowing for limited public access.

In August a Saturday morning open house was held where residents could meet department heads and ask questions.

We can be contacted at: selectmen@alton.nh.gov

Respectful Submitted,

Alan Sherwood, Chairman
Cris Blackstone, Vice-Chairman
Stephan McMahon
Patricia Fuller
A. Pete Shibley